

June 9, 2010

TO: SWIB Executive Board

FROM: Governor's Office

RE: **Math and Science Initiative Proposal for Governor's WIA Set-Aside**

Over the past two years, Governor's Set-aside funds have been utilized to support and expand a state initiative to promote math and science as a key to preparing a workforce capable of competing in a global economy. **Year Three activities** will include:

- Design, development and production oversight of the next set of math and science trading cards that **will highlight** food, nutrition, gardening and related **Montana agriculture and healthcare jobs**. Students are asked to get involved in creating each new set of trading cards by voting online for the math and science facts they find most interesting. There is a significant outreach component to teachers and students for selecting and then announcing the new set of cards.
- Continued promotion and development of **Montana's agricultural industry cluster** through the Classroom Gardening Project. A system will be in place this summer to contact schools for their feedback concerning the impacts of the first year of the Project. This Fall's focus will be on education and outreach to teachers through networks such as the MEA-MFT Educators Conference. Local Project activities will center on coordinating with classroom teachers to **bring volunteer scientists, such as agricultural extension agents, and others from the agricultural industry** into the classroom. There will be involvement of 14 to 18 year olds through the 4-H Teen Leaders program.
- Continued promotion of **Roadside Geology Markers Program** in the Spring and Fall. High school students from communities throughout the state participate in each local event that includes classroom conversations concerning the geology, geography and history of each featured site.
- Active involvement in a number of statewide events encouraging 14 to 18 year olds to participate in **science fairs, science competitions, or summer camps** that inspire students to study math and science as a pathway to a career.
- Participation in a **steering committee leveraging post -secondary resources** to increase the quantity, quality, and diversity of mathematics and science teachers and expanding outreach to teachers' organizations.
- Participation in a consortium of states working through a federal grant program to adopt **internationally benchmarked college and career ready standards** to better align K-12 and higher education and apprenticeship programs.
- Award recognition of a community organization, a private research organization, and an individual who have partnered with Montana's school systems to **enhance math and science education tied to high-demand fields**.

**Budget**

Funding from the Governor's Set-aside for personnel and related expenses for the Initiative. Specifically:

\$41,592 Wages

\$12,478 Benefits

\$17,930 Travel & Outreach

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\$72,000 Total

\$13,000 Estimated unspent funds to carryover from FY 2011

**\$59,000 Additional request for Year Three**

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\$72,000 Total